

# A Well-Rounded Winner

**W**hen she graduates from North Dakota State University (NDSU), Morgan Gallagher will have

a wide range of experiences under her belt. Part of that knowledge comes from a non-typical agriculture background.

Gallagher graduated from Ashley High School (in North Dakota) and is a crop and weed science major at NDSU, working in the area of biotechnology.

“I was interested in working with genetics,” Gallagher says. “I wanted to work in area of ag research because I knew I didn’t want to do sales.”

Gallagher is the 2019 North Dakota Soybean Growers Association (NDSGA) Scholarship recipient. The scholarship provides \$5,000 to an upper class student in NDSU’s College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and is designed to help that student further his/her education.

Gallagher’s parents do custom farming, including planting, seeding and doing custom harvest through summer. That work includes doing a winter-wheat harvest run by starting in Texas and working their way to spring wheat in the north. They also



**Ashley farmer Morgan Gallagher’s farming experience includes working with the family’s custom harvesting business.**

harvest corn, soybeans and sunflower as well as chopping silage.

Not content to sit on the sidelines, she joined her parents on the harvest run while she was still in high school.

“I drove the combine, was a parts gopher,” Gallagher says. “I would do whatever needed to be done.”

Gallagher’s experience includes

doing research on canola plots and working with NDSU plant science. Last summer, she worked with the NDSU soybean breeder on yield traits as well as iron deficiency chlorosis and soybean cyst nematode resistance traits.

She didn’t join her parents on the southern combine run this year. Instead, she’s staying home to take care of a herd of feeder steers, even though she’s never raised cattle before.

“I want to be well rounded, so I like to try different things,” Gallagher says. “Summer is a good time to get exposed to the different parts of the industry. I’ve never had cattle before, so I took the risk to work with livestock rather than just crops.”

Gallagher is on schedule to graduate from NDSU in May of 2020; she plans to enter job market. She appreciates the boost that her education received from the NDSGA scholarship.

“The scholarship helps a lot. It allows me to work with cattle rather than be worried about working this summer to earn every dollar,” Gallagher says. “It also helps lower my student debt.”

Gallagher highly encourages other eligible students to apply for the NDSU/NDSGA award.

“You can’t get the scholarship if you don’t apply,” Gallagher adds.

To be eligible for the NDSGA Scholarship, applicants must be enrolled at NDSU, have completed at least 90 credits, and be the child or grandchild of an NDSGA member.

—*Story by Daniel Lemke, photos courtesy of Morgan Gallagher*



**Gallagher previously worked with NDSU’s soybean breeding program.**



**NDSGA Scholarship winner Morgan Gallagher (right) is scheduled to graduate next May.**